The Spark Gap

JUNE 1986

Book X Vol VI

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

President's Message

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

Happy Summer! Its summer time and the club year draws to a close but the activities keep on rolling along. With the VHF contest around the corner and Field Day right after that, this is one of our busiest months. If you're interested in the VHF contest on the 14th and 15th please let me know, my phone number is listed elsewhere in the Spark Gap. If you're getting psyched for Field Day, give Bill Hanlon your support and get on the bandwagon. The Annual W.A.R.S. Family picnic is planned for the Saturday of Field Day, so make it a family event, let your wife, girlfriend, husband, boyfriend, parents or children or whatever, know what is going on on during some of those Thursday night meetings and weekend contests.

We have an ARRL/VEC exam scheduled for the Friday before Field Day, the 27th, so come on down and upgrade your license class just before you can use the new privileges on Field Day. Contact Dan Brevik, KZ1D, at 460-9059 for info on the exams.

There are going to be various Red Cross related public service events during the summer so be listening for your telephone to ring. If you don't hear it ringing off the hook, give me a call on the repeater, at the K1BC Packet BBS or on the phone and let me know you can help with these public service events.

Now finally, I have some time to detail the events of the Museum Of Science Ham Radio display in April. It was a resounding sucess! All the hard work finally paid off. Due to the outstanding teamwork of all the different displays and of all the people helping with the various booths, we made a highly professional display of Ham Radio to the public. I think this is going to turn into a yearly event, so don't forget all that stuff you learned.

Specifically, the Message Fair Booth that we put on generated 212 pieces of traffic. There were 132 messages destined for out of Massachusetts. I think the lesson from that is that there are LOTS of out of staters going to the Museum of Science. Thank you ALL for helping with this fine display of Amateur Radio.

On that happy note I'll wish one and all a very happy and safe summer season. Enjoy it and keep well.

Elections

There will be two important votes held at the June 19 meeting. The first will be the election of officers for 1986/87. There is an absentee ballot included with this issue, please use it if you cannot attend.

We will also be voting on the proposed Bylaw changes that were included in last months Spark Gap. Don't forget that you can vote as an absentee on this also if you cannot attend the meeting.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

June 5, 1986, at 7:30 p.m.
June 19, 1986, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

Auctions/Flea Markets

June 8: Newington Amateur Radio League flea market. At Newington, Conn. High School on Rt. 173 next to the VA Hospital. Open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission $2.00, tailgating $5.00, tables $8.50 before May 31 and $10.00 after. Talk in on 146.52, 144.85/145.45 or 224.84. Open house at nearby ARRL/W1AW the same day. Contact Les Andrew, KA1KRP, 23 Grove Street, West Hartford, CT 06110 or 203-523-0453.

June 21: New Hampshire FM Association flea market. Held at the Manchester, NH airport off of Rt. 101. Opens at 8:00. Admission is $1.00, sellers $5.00 per lot. Talk in on 146.52. Contact WA1RCF, 603-431-5432 or K1WPM, 603-622-0831.

"New Tickets"

Congratulations to the following people on their new licenses: Phil Warbasse, KA1OJI, Novice; Bill Furbish, KA1OID, Novice; and Frank Mackenzie-Lamb, KA1OAW, General. All have been members of our recent license classes.

FROM THE MAILBAG

On October 17th, 18th & 19th the New England ARRL 1986 Convention will once again be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Boxboro, Massachusetts on Route 495.

Two years ago we set a VE program record for the number of hams we examined and once again we will be offering exams on all levels under the ARRL/VEC program.

I am asking you for your help and support. We are planning only 4 session times this year: Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. We need VE's to staff these times.

If you or any club in your section wants to help out or wants to learn how to give exams under the ARRL/VEC system, please contact me. If we get enough help, hopefully we can all do a little bit of work and have the rest of the weekend to enjoy the Convention.

73's & TNX,

Alan D. Kline, KB1DJ
P.O. Box 54
West Lynn, MA 01905

617-598-6010 (work)
617-595-0873 (home)

ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret to inform you of the death of long time club member Nathan Hallenstein, W1JMA, who died on March 7 at the age of 81. Graveside services were held at Sharon Memorial Park on March 14.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641
VICE PRESIDENT:
Rita Baker, N1DDI, 481-0863
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Arthur Thompson, KA1ENP, 235-5509
TREASURER:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
FUND RAISING:
Thomas Burton, KX1H, 235-6353
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:
Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382
EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:
Vern Valero, ND1Z, 533-6822
STATION MANAGER:
Bob Drapeau, KT1K, 883-1132
REPEATER COMMITTEE:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR:

NELS ANDERSON, K1UR
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FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701
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THE "SPARK GAP" IS THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $10.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

ANNOUNCEMENT

Help Wanted

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society is looking for an Editor for the Spark Gap, the club's newsletter. The job entails that the Editor assemble articles from various sources such as members, ARRL bulletins, and other Amateur press, put the text into a useful format and get it off to the printers. It requires that the Editor manage the production of the newsletter. Anyone that may be interested is requested to talk to a club officer for further information.

I know that everyone shares my feelings when I thank Nels Anderson, K1UR, for an Excellent job as Editor of the Spark Gap over the years. Nels has won various awards for the production of the Spark Gap and has really done an outstanding job with it. Again, Nels, thanks for all your work on the Spark Gap.

education corner

NOVICE GET-ACQUAINTED NIGHT

by Vern Valero, ND1Z

A `Get-Acquainted´ night was held at the Red Cross on May 8 to help some of the new Novices get on the air and have their first contact. The idea was to have a few QSO´s on the ten meter Novice band with WARS members nearby.

Four Novices came forward to `take the plunge´. Everyone had a chance at the key. Some folks even went twice. It was an interesting sight in the back room to watch one person at the key and five other people copying everything being said! It´s fair to say that the Novices had quite a lot of fun, but they were certainly tired at the end of the two hour session.

Tom, N1CPE, Dick, WA1HRV, and Thomas, KX1H all deserve thanks for helping to pull off a successful evening. Thomas, KX1H, deserves special thanks because he was at the other end responding to the Novices. He had quite a protocol set up and was able to relax the tense nerves of the new folks. He even provided blank QSL cards so that a full QSL exchange could be made!

Well, we now have four new Novices (and WARS members) who are excited about getting on the air and are not afraid to make contacts on their own. I imagine that they might feel more at ease about participating in club activities as well. Thanks to all who participated!

DETERIORATA

Collector and Emitter, Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs, via ARNS

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what joy there may be in simplex. As far as possible, be on good terms with all control operators.

Speak the truth quietly and clearly, and listen to others. Even the over-deviated. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, for their audio level is too high.

If you compare your station with others, you may become vain and bitter for always there will be greater and lesser rigs than yours, especially rice boxes.

Enjoy YOUR achievements as well as your plans. That missed St. Peter and Paul Rocks contact, for example. Keep interested in your career for if someone should steal your rig, you must fill the time somehow.

Exercise caution in all your affairs for the world is full of trickery. And lids. Like that list-taker on 20 meters. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is. Many persons strive for high ideals. And besides, the rig has an "off" switch.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign legality. Neither be cynical about 220, because in the face of interference and disenchantment, peace may be found up there.

Take kindly the counsel of years, gracefully surrendering the things on Alan Applegate. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden rig failure.

But do not distress yourself with imagining. Many fears are borne of FCC rumor. Beyond wholesome discipline, go easy on yourself. And don't enter too many contests.

For you are a child of Hiram Maxim, no less than the bands, and the modes, you have a right to experiment. And whether or not it is clear to you, the propagation is collapsing as it should.

Therefore, be at peace with the F layer, whatever you conceive it to be and whatever your rigs and antennas, in the noisy hassle of operation, keep peace with your log book.

With all its noise, interference and broken radios, it is still a beautiful hobby. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Hamnews

The FCC, acting on a petition from the ARRL and others, has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), PR 86-161, proposing a major "enhancement" of the Novice class privileges. This is probably the most important FCC proposal of the 1980s. The following are the specifics:

10 Meter Novice band expanded to 28.1 through 28.5 MHz with phone privileges on 28.3 to 28.5.

220 MHz band would be added.

Part of the 23 cm band, 1246-1260 MHz would be added.

Novices would be able to operate through repeaters on 220 and 1240 but not be control operator or licensee.

Because of the importance of this proposal, it has been rushed into the June issue of QST. A detailed story plus the full text of the NPRM have been included.

Formal comments on this proposal are due on or before July 16 1986.

ARRL Letter, May 9, 1986

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The lack of information via official channels on the nuclear power plant accident in the Ukraine once again has brought Amateur Radio into the media spotlight. HQ has been responding to inquiries from newspapers, the networks, and the wire services with information provided by an East Coast Amateur who speaks Russian, and who has been in contact with stations in the Ukraine and elsewhere in the Soviet Union. A number of television interviews with ARRL HQ staff concerning Amateur Radio have resulted.

ARRL Letter, May 9, 1986

EVENTS

FCC EXAM AT RED CROSS

by Vern Valero, ND1Z

There will be an FCC exam session at the Wellesley Red Cross, 211 Washington Street (Route 16), Wellesley, on Friday night, June 27. Opportunities for all classes of license will be available. We will not be accepting walk-in's this time. Please reserve a spot by June 15 by phoning one of the people listed below. The exam is open to all Amateurs or anyone interested in becoming one.

EXAM DATE:	June 27, 1986
PLACE:	Wellesley Red Cross
TIME:	7:00 p.m.
FEE:	$4.25 check, payable to ARRL/VEC
WALK-IN's:	NOT ALLOWED
FORM 610s:	Available at any WARS meeting, or from ARRL and FCC

CONTACT:

Dan Brevik	KZ1D	460-9059
Thomas Burton	KX1H	235-6353
Vern Valero	ND1Z	533-6822

GENERAL CLASS

by Vern Valero, ND1Z

The General Class is progressing quite smoothly. Art, KA1ENP, finished up his treatment of `Principles II'. Rich, WA1EQU, whose son is in the class, videotaped Art's lecture. We will review the tape to determine the feasibility of taping future classes.

Dick, WA1HRV, and I taught the `Operations' subject. Dick talked about voice operations and I slipped my way through RTTY, AMTOR, and packet. Dick had some excellent advice for the students on the unwritten `traditions' found on two meter repeaters.

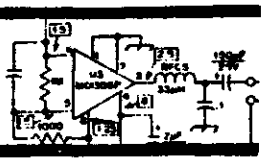
Tom, N1CPE, presented `Circuits I'. One of the students had some equipment with a `dirty' power supply. Tom treated the circuit as a design problem right in class. I'm sure that it was very gratifying for the students to see an instant application of the theory.

We have a very inquisitive and sharp class here. Sometimes we are afraid to ask `Any questions?' because they are many and well thought out. But this is a good sign. I hope it means that we are developing a pool of future teachers. (An Education Dept. plug!)

On the code front we have progressed from 5 WPM to 10 WPM. Roughly half of the class is keeping up. We have two individuals with no license who are studying independently. Unfortunately, I don't have the time to do individual code practice. I present two sessions a night on tape. The first session is 15 minutes of random practice. The second session is a typical QSO similar to what might be on the code exam.

The class is at the mid-point. It won't be long before we graduate a new crop of Generals!

Tek Tok



from Dayton RF Carrier, via ARNS

Recently, the official one ohm standard kept at the International Bureau of Standards in Paris was measured and showed 0.99999999851 ohms. This came as quite a shock to the world of Amateur Radio. It would be wise to immediately recalibrate your equipment.

Hamnews

The Soviet Mir Space Station is on the air, although it has yet to show up in the ham bands.

AMSAT reports that Amateurs worldwide have been monitoring the progress of the new Russian space station which

was orbited on February 19.

The easiest transmissions to monitor are those on FM at 143.625 MHz in the Russian language. The VHF signals are quite strong and can be heard by listeners using even primitive receiving equipment.

The VHF frequencies of 121.750, 142.400, 142.417, 142.600, 143.144, 143.825, 166.000 and 192.040 MHz are also reported as communications channels being used by the crew aboard Mir, and numerous visual observations of the space station have also been made.

Mir is not expected to operate in the Amateur bands until relief efforts have been completed following the Soviets' recent nuclear disaster.

Westlink Report, May 2, 1986

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Repeaters with an interference problem are "equally and fully responsible" for the resolution of those problems, according to the FCC. The Commission rendered this judgment in its Report and Order on PR Docket 85-22, made public at the Second Annual National Repeater Coordinators meeting, held in conjunction with the 1986 Dayton Hamvention. In cases where only one repeater involved in such a dispute holds a valid sanction from a recognized frequency coordinator, the "primary responsibility" for resolving an interference problem will lie with the uncoordinated system.

While the Report and Order does not make it mandatory for regions not now having a coordination council or individual to get one, it does make the coordination of all repeater systems operating in heavily congested RF environments, and thus served by some coordinating body, essentially mandatory.

What exactly constitutes a bone fide "recognized" frequency coordinator was not defined, and it appears that the FCC staff will leave the Amateur Radio community to determine the criteria. The new rules change, which takes effect July 12, 1986, also drops sections of Part 97 which have restricted repeater output power and antenna height for over a decade.

Westlink Report, May 2, 1986

FIELD DAY!

It's almost here! Field Day is this month, June 28 and 29 to be specific. Twenty-four hours of operating pleasure with your fellow WARS members.

The exact hours of the contest are from 2:00 p.m. Saturday to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, no stopping, 24 straight hours! This means we will need plenty of people to operate. Are you a little nervous about operating a contest like this? Don't be! The whole purpose of Field Day is to be a learning experience for everyone. The best thing about operating with a group is that there is always someone to help you along if it's something you are new at. So there's no excuses, give it a try!

Since we will be operating an emergency type station, running with temporary antennas off of emergency power there will be some set up time required. Anyone who can help with setting up should be at the Wellesley Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning June 28.

Once we get going, we will be having a cook out Saturday night, so bring some food down for yourself, grills will be provided.

If you would like more information, or would like to let us know you will definately be coming, contact Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, at 384-8056 or Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, at 653-0641. See you there!

73'S

As some of you know, this will be the last Spark Gap that I will be editing. It's been a pleasure running the show for the past 8 years but as I have acquired other interests I thought it would be a good time to retire and let some fresh blood take over the reigns. 73 to all.

Wellesley Amateur Radio Society
211 Washington Street
Wellesley Hills, Mass. 02181

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 1986-87

PRESIDENT:

[] Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

[] _____

VICE PRESIDENT:

[] Rita Baker, N1DDI

[] _____

RECORDING SECRETARY:

[] Roger Smith, W1EOA

[] _____

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

[] Arthur Thompson, KA1ENP

[] _____

TREASURER:

[] C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM

[] _____

FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN:

[] David Kent, N2AWG

[] _____

OPERATING ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN:

[] Bob Drapeau, KT1K

[] _____

Vote for one person for each office and return to the club to arrive not later than June 19, 1986.

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The Spark Gap

WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

211 Washington Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181

BOSTON, MA 021
PM
3 JUN
1986

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